

**CULTURAL EXCHANGES,  
PROPERTY AND COOPERATION**

**Archaeological Material**

**Memorandum of Understanding  
Between the  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
and BELIZE**

Signed at Belmopan February 23, 2018



NOTE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Pursuant to Public Law 89—497, approved July 8, 1966  
(80 Stat. 271; 1 U.S.C. 113)—

“ . . .the Treaties and Other International Acts Series issued under the authority of the Secretary of State shall be competent evidence . . . of the treaties, international agreements other than treaties, and proclamations by the President of such treaties and international agreements other than treaties, as the case may be, therein contained, in all the courts of law and equity and of maritime jurisdiction, and in all the tribunals and public offices of the United States, and of the several States, without any further proof or authentication thereof.”

**BELIZE**

**Cultural Exchanges, Property and  
Cooperation: Archaeological Material**

*Memorandum of understanding  
signed at Belmopan  
February 23, 2018;  
Entered into force February 23, 2018;  
With effect from February 27, 2018.*

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

AND

THE GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE

CONCERNING THE IMPOSITION OF IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

ON CATEGORIES OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL OF BELIZE

The Government of the United States of America and the Government of Belize;

Acting pursuant to the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, to which both countries are States party;

Desiring to reduce the incentive for pillage of irreplaceable archaeological material representing Belize's rich cultural heritage; and

Recalling the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Belize Concerning the Imposition of Import Restrictions on Categories of Archaeological Material Representing the Cultural Heritage of Belize from the Pre-Ceramic (Approximately 9000 B.C.), Pre-Classic, Classic, And Post-Classic Periods of the Pre-Columbian Era through the Early and Late Colonial Periods, done at Belize City, Belize, February 27, 2013 ("the prior MOU");

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

1. The Government of the United States of America shall, in accordance with its legislation, including the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act, continue to restrict the importation into the United States of certain archaeological material that is at least 250 years old, ranging in date from the Pre-Ceramic (from approximately 9000 B.C.), Pre-Classic, Classic, and Post-Classic Periods of the Pre-Columbian era through the Early and Late Colonial Periods, which may include categories of sculpture, vessels, and other objects made of materials such as stone, metal, ceramic, bone, shell, wood, and glass identified in the list to be promulgated by the Government of the United States of America (hereinafter referred to as the Designated List), unless the Government of Belize issues a license which certifies that such exportation was not in violation of its laws.

2. The Government of the United States of America shall offer for return to the Government of Belize any object or material on the Designated List forfeited to the Government of the United States of America.
3. Such import restrictions went into effect on March 5, 2013, and shall continue to be effective from the date of publication of the Designated List in the U.S. Federal Register, the official U.S. Government publication providing fair public notice.

## ARTICLE II

1. Both Governments shall publicize this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the reasons for it.
2. The Government of Belize shall continue to use its best efforts to maintain and share with the Government of the United States of America information about unauthorized excavations, thefts of cultural property, trafficking of cultural property, and other threats that jeopardize its cultural patrimony.
3. The Government of Belize shall continue to use its best efforts to take steps consistent with the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Export, Import, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property to protect its cultural patrimony. To assist in these efforts, the Government of the United States of America shall use its best efforts to facilitate technical assistance to the Government of Belize as appropriate under available programs in the public and/or private sectors.
4. The Government of Belize shall continue to use its best efforts to engage other countries having a significant import trade in archaeological material from Belize to deter a serious situation of pillage of cultural property.
5. Each Government shall use best efforts to encourage further interchange of archaeological material for cultural, educational, and scientific purposes, including long-term loans of such material to promote widespread public appreciation of and access to cultural heritage.
6. Each Government shall continue to endeavor to keep the other informed of the measures taken to implement this MOU.

## ARTICLE III

The obligations of both Governments and the activities carried out under this MOU shall be subject to their respective laws and regulations, including with respect to the availability of appropriated funds.

ARTICLE IV

1. This MOU supersedes the prior MOU and shall enter into force upon signature with effect from February 27, 2018; it shall remain in force for a period of five (5) years, unless extended.
2. This MOU may be extended and amended only by mutual written consent of the Parties.
3. The Government of the United States of America and the Government of Belize shall review the effectiveness of this MOU before the expiration of the five (5)-year period in order to determine whether the MOU should be extended.
4. Either Party may notify the other, in writing through diplomatic channels, of its intention to terminate this MOU prior to its date of expiry. In such a case the termination shall come into effect six (6) months after the date of notification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed the present MOU.

DONE at Belmopan, this February 23, 2018 in duplicate, in the English language.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:



FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF  
BELIZE:

